of Mines Safety. A Standing Committee on safety in coal mines headed by the Union Energy Minister reviews from time to time the status of safety in coal mines. The Mines Act, 1952 has also been amended with a view to making safety provisions more effective and also to provide for workers' participation in safety management. The strengthening and modernising the safety measures in mines have been and still are a constant and continuous process keeping in view as far as possible the modern scientific and technological advancement of mines safety

1658. [*Transferred to the 3rd December*, 1987].

Investment by non-resident Indians

1659. SHRI CHITTA BASU. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the N.R.I. investment of capital and technology for the last three years;

(b) what is the quantum of inflow of N.R.I. funds under portfolio investment scheme; and

(c) what is the number of application from N R Is. received for grant of industrial licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K GADHVI): (a) During the last three years, i e. 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto 30-9-87), a total of 605 industrial approvals by way of grant of Letters of Intent/SIA Registration, Foreign Collaboration Approvals and Import of Capital Goods by NRIs, were issued to Non-Resident Indians by the Government of India. The projects covered by these approvals envisage NRI Investment of approximately Rs 172 crores.

(b) A sum of Rs. 62.93 crores has been invested by Non-Resident Indians/Persons of Indian Origin under the Portfolio Investment Scheme upto 30th June, 1987 since the inception of the Scheme in April, 1982.

(c) A total number of 310 industrial licence applications were received from NRIs for grant of industrial licence to set up industries in India during 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto 19-11-87)

1660. [*Transferred to the 4th December*, 1987].

1661. [*Transferred to the 26th November*, 1987].

Bonded labour

1662 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 lakh bonded labourers exist in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 2 lakh bonded labourers have been identified so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that effective action is not being taken against the people who indulge in these malpractices;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a gap of 2 to 4 years exists between the release of a bonded labourer and his rehabilitation; and

(e) if so, what steps Government are taking for the speedy release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The estimates of total number of bonded labourers in the country vary significantly. The National Sample Survey Organisation and the Gandhi Peace Foundation had estimated the number of bonded labourers in the country as 3 45 lakhs and 26.17 lakhs respectively in 1977 and 1978 As per the reports received from the State Governments, the number of bonded labourers identified as on 30-9-87 is 2,21,364

(c) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 provides that whoever compels any person to render any bonded labour shall be punishable with imprison-

ment for a term which may extend to three years and also with fine which may extended to two thousand rupees. The responsibility for launching prosecutions against the offenders lies with the concerned State Government. The State Governments are advised from time to time to deal with the offenders effectively.

(d) and (e) Under the Bonded Labour system (Abolition) Act, 1976, the State Governments are responsible for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Annual targets for rehabilitation of bonded labour by State Governments are set by the Central Government Progress is monitored State have been advised to conduct survey to identify bonded labour. A scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour has been issued.

Decline in exports of marine products to UK

1663. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of marine products to the United Kingdom have fallen as compared to previous years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure more exports of marine products to the U K.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The exports of marine products to the United Kingdom during the last three years have been fluctuating in quantitative terms though their value has been steadily increasing as the following table will shows:—

	Qty. (tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1984-85 . .	4146	2042
1985-86 . . .	4818	2267
1986-87 . . .	4217	2431

The fall in quantity exported during last year is mainly due to poor landing of shrimps.

(c) Steps taken by Govt. to increase the export of marine products to U.K. include promotion of prawn farming for augmenting production of cultured prawns, encouragement of production value added items like IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) shrimps, setting up of prawn hatcheries measures for exploitation of deep sea fishing resources promotional efforts etc.

Foreign aid for cleaning Ganga

1664. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign aid is being sought by the Government of India for cleaning the Ganga; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of such aid and the names of the countries which have been approached for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R ANSARI): (a) Government of India has not sought any foreign assistance in the implementation of Ganga Action Plan. A few international organisations and countries have shown interest in Ganga Action Plan and offered assistance which have been considered

(b) *World Bank*: An agreement has been concluded between the Government of India and the World Bank providing